

HOUSE BILL 1727

By Brooks H

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-107(f); Title 2, Chapter 14, Part 1 and Section 2-13-107(a), relative to becoming a recognized minor party.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-107(a)(1), is amended by adding the following language after the period of the first sentence:

Notwithstanding the minimum number of signatures required in § 2-1-104(a)(24), if an organization intends to establish a recognized minor party solely within one (1) county, in all other respects, the petition shall conform to the requirements established therein, except the petition must at a minimum bear the signatures of registered voters within such county equal to at least two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total number of votes cast within such county for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-107(a)(2), is amended by adding the following language after the period of the first sentence:

Notwithstanding the minimum number of signatures required in § 2-1-104(a)(24), if an organization intends to establish a recognized minor party solely within one (1) county, in all other respects, the petition shall conform to the requirements established therein, except the petition must at a minimum bear the signatures of registered voters within such county equal to at least two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total number of votes cast within such county for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-107(f), is amended by adding the following language after the period of the first sentence:

However, if the recognized minor party is established solely within one (1) county, at least one (1) candidate for the recognized minor party must have received a number of votes equal to at least five percent (5%) of the total number of votes cast for candidates for the office of county mayor in the most recent election for such office.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 14, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

2-14-10\_\_.

(a) If it is necessary to hold a special election to fill a vacant seat in the United States house of representatives or the general assembly, the requirements of §§ 2-1-104 and 2-13-107 shall apply, except the petition must at a minimum bear the signatures of registered voters within the legislative district for which the special election has been called equal to at least two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total number of votes cast within such legislative district for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor.

(b) To be recognized as a minor party for purposes of a special primary or general election, a petition as described in subsection (a), must be filed no later than twelve o'clock (12:00) noon, prevailing time, on the appropriate qualifying deadline for such special primary in the office of the coordinator of elections.

(c) Except as provided in this section, §§ 2-1-104 and 2-13-107 shall govern the process.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.